

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A lithium battery separator having a shutdown function, and comprising a porous carrier having a porous inorganic, nonelectroconductive coating layer on and in said carrier, and wherein a shutdown layer of shutdown particles, which melt at a predetermined temperature and close the pores of said inorganic layer, is present on said inorganic layer and bonded thereto.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The separator according to claim 1, wherein said carrier is flexible and less than 50 μm in thickness.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The separator according to claim 1, wherein said carrier comprises woven or non-woven polymeric or glass fibers.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The separator according to claim 3, wherein said carrier is a polymeric nonwoven.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The separator according to claim 3, wherein said polymeric fibers are selected from fibers of polyacrylonitrile, polyester, polyolefin or mixtures thereof.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The separator according to claim 1, wherein said carrier is less than 30 μm in thickness.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The separator according to claim 1, wherein said porous inorganic coating layer, present on said carrier, comprises oxide particles of the elements Al, Si and/or Zr from 0.5 to 10 μm in size on average.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The separator according to claim 1, wherein said shutdown particles have an average size (D_w) which is greater than the average pore size (d) of said pores of said porous inorganic layer.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The separator according to claim 8, wherein the layer of shutdown particles has a thickness (z_w) which is approximately in the range from said average size of said shutdown particles (D_w) up to 10 times said particle size D_w .

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The separator according to claim 1, wherein said shutdown particles are selected from polymers, polymer blends, natural waxes or artificial waxes.

Claims 11-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A process of preparing a battery, comprising, inserting the separator as claimed in claim 1 into a battery cell.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A battery comprising the separator as claimed in claim 1, and one or more additional components.